

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A moisture-reducing device for print media comprising:  
2           a paper tray for containing and supporting the media;  
3           a desiccant contained in the paper tray proximate to the print media for  
4           absorbing moisture from the environment of the paper tray.
- 1           2.     The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further  
2           comprises a silica gel.
- 1           3.     The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further  
2           comprises an activated alumina.
- 1           4.     The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further  
2           comprises a lithium chloride salt.
- 1           5.     The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further  
2           comprises a pre-packaged desiccant.
- 1           6.     The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the paper tray is  
2           lined with the desiccant.
- 1           7.     The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further  
2           comprises a molded panel.
- 1           8.     The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the paper tray further  
2           comprises:  
3           a recess formed in the interior of the paper tray; and  
4           the desiccant placed in the recess of the tray proximate to the print media.

1           9.     The moisture-reducing device of Claim 8 further comprising a panel  
2 including a plurality of apertures covering desiccant placed in the recess.

1           10.    The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 further comprising:  
2           an air passage pneumatically connected to the paper tray;  
3           a heating element pneumatically connected to the air passage;  
4           a blower pneumatically connected to the air passage for pressurizing an air  
5 flow across the heating element into the paper tray directing a pressurized air flow  
6 across the desiccant for purging accumulated moisture from the desiccant.

1           11.    The moisture-reducing device of Claim 10 further comprising a  
2 humidity sensor connected to the heating element, the heating element responsive  
3 to a signal from the humidity sensor indicating that a moisture level of the desiccant  
4 equals a pre-selected moisture level.

1           12.    The moisture-reducing device of Claim 10 wherein the heating element  
2 further comprises an intermittently operating heating element.

1           13.    An image forming device comprising:  
2           a controller contained within a housing;  
3           a print engine including a developer assembly connected to and operatively  
4 responsive to the controller;  
5           a paper tray attachable to the housing for containing and supporting a media;  
6           a media transport mechanism contained within the housing for picking the  
7 media from the paper tray and transporting the media through the print engine; and  
8           a desiccant contained in the paper tray proximate to the media for absorbing  
9 moisture from the environment of the paper tray.

1           14.    The image forming device of Claim 13 further comprising:  
2           an air passage pneumatically connected to the paper tray;  
3           a heating element positioned within the air passage;

4 a blower pneumatically connected to the air passage for pressurizing an air  
5 flow across the heating element and into the paper tray directing a pressurized air  
6 flow across the desiccant purging accumulated moisture from the desiccant.

1 15. The image forming device of Claim 14 further comprising a humidity  
2 sensor connected to the heating element, the heating element responsive to a signal  
3 from the humidity sensor indicating that a moisture level of the desiccant equals a  
4 pre-selected moisture level.

1 16. The image forming device of Claim 14 wherein the heating element  
2 further comprising an intermittently operating heating element.

1 17. The image forming device of Claim 14 wherein the heating element  
2 operates in response to a signal from the controller responsive to a pre-selected  
3 number of image forming cycles.

1 18. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 14 wherein the desiccant  
2 further comprises a silica gel.

1 19. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 14 wherein the desiccant  
2 further comprises an activated alumina.

1 20. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 14 wherein the desiccant  
2 further comprises a lithium chloride salt.